

The Southwester

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Festival on SW Waterfront



Kids floated their model ships on a homemade pond on the SW Waterfront as part of the National Cherry Blossom Festival in April, thanks to a grant from the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation.



Swarms of spectators flowed to the Southwest Waterfront to watch a spectacular fireworks show as part of the National cherry Blossom Festival in April.

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May 6 On Jobs For SW Residents

An "Action Roundtable" at SE University from 10 am to 3 pm Sat. May 6 will discuss "What will it take for residents of Near SE/SW to get the growing number of jobs and business opportunities in the community." "Concerned Citizens" are invited to RSVP by May 1st at 202-777-2242 or sreines@sfcg.org.

More details are given in the ad on page 6.

Ballpark Advisors Appointed

The D.C. Sports and Entertainment Commission has appointed a "community leaders advisory committee" as "a way to monitor construction and address any concerns."

Members include all commissioners on ANC Commissions 6D (Near SW/SE) and 6B (Capitol Hill); most churches in the area, representatives of public housing complexes and other government and

private groups.

Mrs. Marge Maceda, President of SWNA, will represent The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly.

The agenda for the first committee meeting on Wed. Apr. 19 at Friendship Baptist Church included a ballpark progress report, employment report, traffic report, neighborhood projects and community benefits.



Officials of the Sports and Entertainment Commission are shown briefing the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly on the new baseball stadium.

Baseball Update:

The Sports and Entertainment Commission and the construction company reported to ANC6D on the current status of the baseball stadium. On the site, the asphalt plant is being dismantled, and all properties have been acquired except the WMATA site. Construction begins on May 1st with demolition and excavation operations. The structural steel will go up in October. The planned opening date is April 2008.

SW Tenant Woes At SWNA Apr. 24

The monthly public meeting of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly on Mon. Sep. 24 will hear from the DCRA Rent Administrator, Keith Anderson, on Rent Control and Related Laws; from Julie Becker, Esq., Legal Aid Society, on Fighting Illegal Landlord Actions; and Natalie LeBeau,

Housing Counseling Services, Inc., on Organizing a Tenants' Association and Other Tenants' Rights Strategies.

Ron Collins will explain the Mayor's Budget on behalf of Mayor Anthony Williams' administration.

The meeting is at St. Augustine Church, 6th and Maine Ave. SW at 7:30 pm.

Ward 6 Forum of Candidates

On Tues. Apr. 25 at 7:30 pm Candidates for Ward 6 council seat will be quizzed at Hine Jr. High School, 335 8th St. SE. A straw poll of the audience will follow the event.

Candidates who have confirmed they will take part are (in alphabetical order) Will Cobb, Curtis Etherly, Keith Jarrell, Leo Pinson and Tommy Wells.

For further information contact SW resident Jan Eichhorn, president of The Ward 6 Democrats, 547-8855.

Officer Coursey with the Deputy Mayor and Commissioner Williams. Photo by Robert Marshall



Officer John Coursey

By Mary Williams

First District Police Officer John Coursey, a 27-year veteran of the Metropolitan Police Department, died on March 13, 2006. Officer Coursey worked throughout First District but was especially helpful in PSA 104.

Officer Coursey was not just a great police officer but a champion who advocated for decent neighborhoods and a better city. I first met Officer Coursey in 2000, shortly after moving to Carrollsburg Place SW, and worked with him on many projects. He was among the few police officers who believed in community policing, and not just in theory, but made it work. He demonstrated time and again that it can work. On our first meeting, he gave me his office and cell phone number and told me to call him whenever there were problems. Even when he was off-duty or on vacation, he called me back and followed up. He was an extraordinary public servant, and he will be missed.

I really didn't know at that time that he was a veteran officer with more than 20 years on the force. He worked and exuded the energy and enthusiasm of an ambitious rookie officer who had his eyes on the Chief's job. He was just that diligent and committed to his work.

From our conversations, it was obvious that Officer Coursey saw his work not as a job but a calling to service. And he did it well.

Officer Coursey worked in Focus Mission and was in charge of removing

abandoned cars and securing abandoned houses. During the early years, many Southwest neighborhoods had more than their fair share of both of these. But Coursey helped change that. Within three years, the Carrollsburg Place neighborhood was nearly transformed.

Coursey played a pivotal role in that change and will be remembered for his work. I can say without reservation that Officer Coursey made a difference in the 1200 block of Carrollsburg Place and Half St. SW.

John Dalton Coursey Jr. was only 48 years old. He joined the Metropolitan Police Department right out of college and served this community more than 27 years. He leaves to mourn his family, wife, Kathy, four children, Katie, Jim, John and David, all of Gaithersburg; five brothers, and a sister, as well as many Southwest residents. Funeral services were held on March 18, 2006, at Stauffer Funeral Home in Mt. Airy, MD. First District Commander Diane Groomes and many from this area attended.

A scholarship trust fund has been established for Officer Coursey's children. Contributions can be made to Coursey Children's Memorial Trust, c/o Mrs. Diane Salen, 205 Walnut Creek Road, Huntingdon, MD 20639.

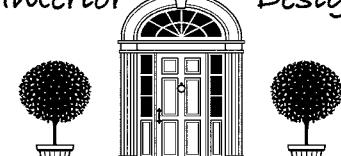
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Southwest Community Calendar

April 22 to May 31, 2006

SAT. APR. 22 Hazardous Waste disposal: Carter Barron Amphitheatre on 16th St. NW, 9 am to 3 pm

MON. APR. 24 SWNA public meeting, St. Augustine Episcopal Church, Maine Ave & 6th St. SW 7:30 pm.

TUES. APR. 25 Ward 6 Council candidates, Hine Jr. High, 335 8th St. SE 7:30 pm

THURS. APR. 27 NARFE lunch meeting, SW Library, K St. SW & Wesley Place SW, 12:30 pm.

TUES. MAY 2 CAC Police meeting, 415 4th St. SW, 7 pm

SAT, MAY 6 Jobs for SW/SE Residents, "Action Roundtable", SE Univ., 6th and I (Eye) St. SW, 10 am to 3 pm.

SUN. MAY 7 SW Renewal Review, Arena Stage Old Vat Room, 6:30 pm

MON. MAY 8 ANC6D public meeting, 65 I (Eye) St. SW, 7 pm

FRI. MAY 12 Arena Stage SW Night, 8 pm

WED. MAY 17 AARP River Park 1311 Delaware Ave. SW, 12 noon

FRI., SAT. MAY 19, 20 Used Book Sale at SW Branch Library, K St. SW & Wesley Pl SW, 11 am-5 pm both days.

SAT. MAY 20 Crop Walk, 4th & I SW, 2 pm.

SAT. MAY 20 Community Breakfast, \$5, Christ United Methodist Church, 4th & I (Eye) St. SW (back entrance) 9 am - 11 am.

Please submit calendar items for the next issue by Wed., May 3.

SUN. MAY 21 SW Walking tour, Waterfront Mall, 4th & M SW, 2 pm

MON. MAY 22 Public meeting of SWNA, St. Augustine Church, Maine Ave. SW & 6th St. SW, 7:30 pm

THURS. MAY 25 NARFE, SW Library, 12:30 pm.

WED. MAY 31, Deadline for applications for college grants from SW Scholarship Fund (rather than May 15 in last SWer).

WEEKLY, BI-WEEKLY

KOMEN TOASTMASTERS - First & Third Sat., S.W. Library, 10 am.

FIL-AM TOASTMASTERS - Second & Fourth Wed., S.W. Library, 6:15 pm

SCHOOL ST. TOASTMASTERS - Every Tues., 400 Virginia Ave. S.W., Room 888 - noon

WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTORS Club - First & Third Wed., Christ United Methodist Church, 300 block of I (Eye) St. S.W., 7 pm 202-291-6229

S.W. KIWANIS - First & Third Mon., Christ United Methodist Church, 4th & I St. S.W., 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

NEW SOUTHWEST TOASTMASTERS - Every Wed. GSA Bldg - 7th & D St. S.W., Room 5009 (inside cafeteria), noon.

LABYRINTH WALK - First & Third Wed., Westminster Church, 4th & I St., SW, 7 pm

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Email your stories and ads by Wed., May 3 to The Southwester at thesouthwester@yahoo.com.
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1/16 page	\$35	1/8 page	\$70
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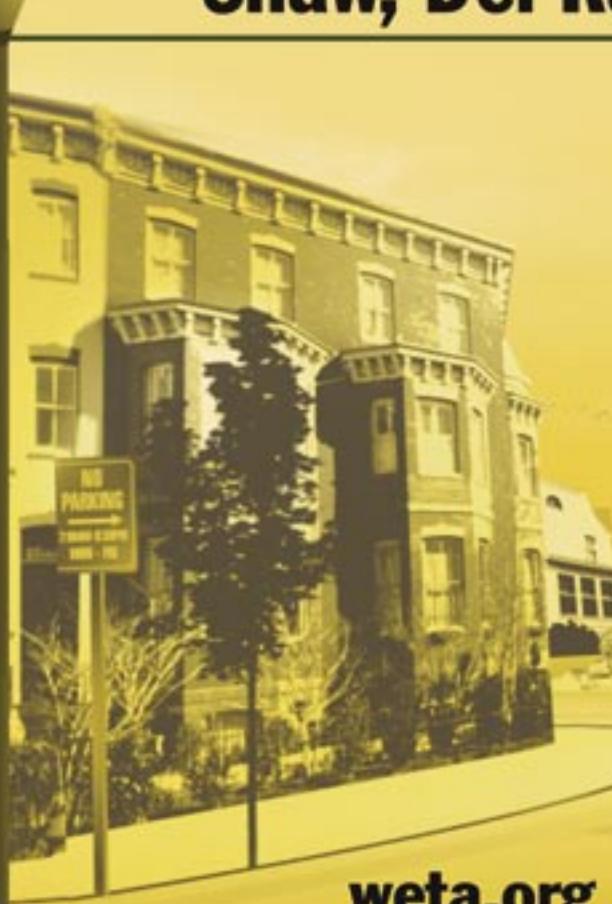
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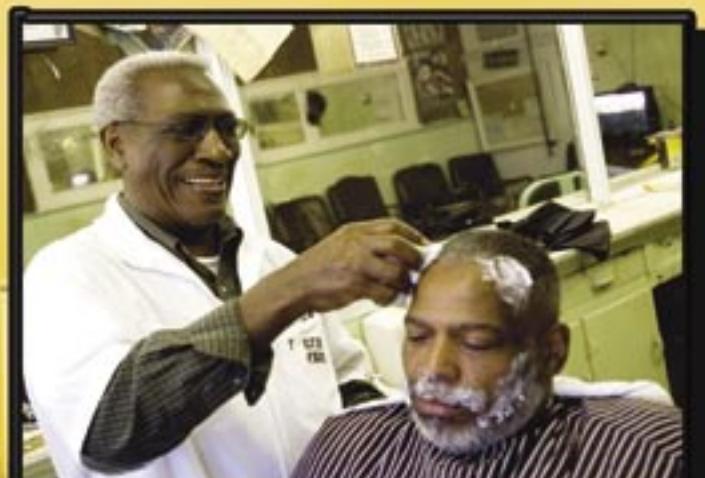
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Kidsafe Featured on WETA-TV

The Southwest community will be featured on Washington's WETA TV 26, series, *WETA Neighborhoods: Stories from Where We Live*. *Neighborhoods* is a mini-documentary that spotlights neighborhoods throughout the Washington Metropolitan Area.

During May, WETA will air four two-minute stories on Southwest highlighting Dr. Dorothy Height, Southwest resident, Historic Southwest, the fish wharf and KidSafe.

The Southwest features premiere on Monday, May 1, immediately before "Texas Ranch House" at 8 p.m. on WETA TV 26.

"Past and present residents of Southwest and all communities are encouraged to share their memories at weta.org/neighbohoods, where visitors can also view video segments and photographs," according to a release from WETA.

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DC Schools, NCRC Seek Housing

The National Capital Revitalization Corporation (NCRC) has partnered with the District of Columbia Public School system (DCPS) to establish the NCRC/DCPS Home Ownership Initiative. The goal of this initiative is to assist teachers and other District government employees, in obtaining affordable and workforce housing in the city.

The NCRC/DCPS Home Ownership Initiative will:

- Identify development opportunities for affordable and workforce housing on, or adjacent to DCPS and/or NCRC land assets;
- Provide financial assistance to qualified candidates for home ownership; and
- Create affordable and workforce housing for teachers and other District government employees.

Van Ness School Closing; Amidon, Bowen May Be Combined

The D.C. Public School System is closing Van Ness Elementary School for lack of children, now that the Arthur Capper and Carrollsburg public housing complexes have closed and are being torn down. Replacement housing for public housing residents in Near SE as part of the Hope Six construction in the Van Ness area is some years off.

As part of the public schools master plan recently announced, Amidon (with 285 students) and Bowen (with 242 students) Elementary Schools in Near SW will lose their sixth grade students to Jefferson Jr. High. Elementary Schools are supposed to have between 300 and 500 students, so these two Southwest schools may face "consolidation," with one or the other being closed.

The Board of Education has given Superintendent Janney until May 28 to eliminate one million square feet of the school system's 16.2 million square feet of building space. The Board is expected to act in May.

The Board has been holding public forums. Written statements can be submitted for the official record to: Russell A. Smith, D.C. Board of Education, 825 North Capitol St. N.E., Washington DC 20002.

The school system web site is www.k12.dc.us.

Back-2-Bethel Sunday, May 21

Bethel Pentecostal Tabernacle Assembly of God at 60 I (Eye) St. SW is celebrating its 85th anniversary on Sun. May 21 with two services, one at 10:30 am and one at 7 pm. Lunch will be served, so please RSVP at (202) 484-3184. Rev. Robert L. Carter, Sr., is pastor.

Crop Walk Sat. May 20

Groups from seven Southwest DC churches are fighting against hunger and poverty at home and abroad by joining a five mile walk on Southwest sidewalks Sat. May 20 at 2pm starting at Christ Methodist Church, 4th and I (Eye) St. S.W. About 100 walkers are expected to walk a route that passes the local churches in the SW Group Ministry.

A fourth of the money



raised will go to D.C. Hunger Solutions and the rest to Church World Service.

Crop Walk is a program of the Church World Service and has a slogan "We Walk Because They Walk," referring to the fact that in developing nations people have to walk to get water, to find wood, to find medical care, to find shelter.

Call for information: Corinne Scott 202-484-3575, davicors@cs.com or DeLaine.Linda@bls.gov.

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Action Roundtable on Jobs & Business Opportunities

Sponsors to date: ANC Commissioners Andy Litksy and David Sobelsohn, The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, The Near SE-SW Community Benefits Coalition and The South Washington West of the River Family Strengthening Collaborative.

Neighborhood leaders need YOU – concerned citizens - to join with them in figuring out – What it is going to take for residents of Near SE/SW to get the growing number of jobs and business opportunities in the community?

When: Saturday May 6th 10:00am - 3:00pm (registration begins at 9:00)

Where: Southeastern University, 501 I Street SW

There will be food!!

Please RSVP by May 1st to 202 777 2242 or sreines@sfcg.org
For more information please contact Collaboration DC at 202 777 2242

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May 7 Review of SW Renewal

By Ron McBee

SW residents are invited to Arena Stage's Old Vat Room on Sun. May 7 at 6:30 pm to hear graduate students of Professor Richard Longstreth of George Washington University report on their study of SW Urban Renewal of the 1950s and 1960s.

Dr. Longstreth's class in Historic Preservation will have illustrations and pictures as well as background on the 562 acre SW Redevelopment Land Agency (RLA) area and will give information on the architects and landscape architects involved in the design and building of these impor-

tant Mid-Century buildings. Dr. Richard Longstreth, is one of America's foremost authorities on Mid-Century architecture. Refreshments will be provided.

We at the SW History Task Force hope you will make plans to attend. In addition to the wonderful presentations, we will have available copies, free, of the new publication under the auspices of the National Trust titled, "A Female Modernist in the Classical Capital: Chloethiel Woodward Smith and Southwest Washington DC." This is another step in knowing your SW Community and preparing us for the new Southwest.

Apply for ANC Grants

Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner 6D (ANC6D) Outreach Grant Awards are awarded in amounts up to \$500 dollars to qualifying groups doing business in Southwest Washington, DC. Grants will be awarded until \$10,000.00 allotted is depleted. To apply for a grant, you will need to fill out a grant application form and follow the guidelines provided on ANC6D website: www.anc6d.org, under Library.

Deliver your application to ANC6D

Community Outreach Committee (COC), Naomi J. Monk, 300 M Street, SW #N108, Washington, DC 20024. Only grant applications in 8 hard copies will be considered. Applications should reach COC, 10 to 12 weeks before the project or activity date and 3-4 weeks before the ANC meeting at which funding approval is sought. Please submit your questions to Naomi J. Monk at nmonk10501@aol.com, or Tel 202-479-0442.

Book Sale at SW Library May 19-20

Friends of the SW Library are asking for donated books, CDs, Videos to sell at their two-day book sale Fri. and Sat. May 19-20. Bags of donations may be left at the library during regular hours – open six days a week at 9:30 am; closing at 5:30 pm Tues. Thurs., Fri., Sat.; Open till 9 pm Mon., Wed.

At the sale most hardbacks are \$1, paperbacks 50 cents. Some better books higher.

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You and the business must consent to have your dispute mediated by the law students, but it just might settle a billing question, car repair problem, home contract or credit card dispute.

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Thelma Jones, left, advisory board member, as a notary public, swore in the newly elected board members of SWNA, (left to right): Perry Klein, Lida Churchville, Marge Macea, Ron McBee, Meg Brinckman, Vanessa Ruffin-Colbert, Ellen Winship, Ken LaCruise, Patricia Patterson, Bill Brawner, Carolyn Mitchell.

SWNA Election Results

Officers elected at the Mar. 25 public election at Waterfront Mall are: President, Marge Macea; Vice Pres., Tom Heineman; Secretary Margaret(Meg) Brinckman; Treasurer, Ellen Winship. Board Members, two each from the four districts: Dist. 1 Lida Churchville, Perry Klein; Dist. 2 Ron McBee, Patricia Patterson; Dist. 3 William J. "Bill" Brawner, Carolyn G. Mitchell; Dist. 4 Vanessa Ruffin-Colbert; Ken LaCruise.



Neal Peirce, left, a founder in 1964 of the charitable corporation which is now the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, Inc., was interviewed by Thelma Jones, past president of SWNA.



Officials of the District of Columbia explained the process for property tax assessment and appeals at the April meeting of the SWNA.

Free Walking Tours in SW DC and Near SE, Including a Couple of Boat Tours

Saturday, April 22

Anacostia by Bike Saturday, 9 am – noon

Meet at the entrance to the Washington Fish and Seafood Market Place, 1100 Maine Avenue, SW. Reservations are required at 202-661-7581 or mail to: reply@CulturalTourismDC.org.

Presented by the District Department of Transportation.

Saturday, 3 – 5 pm Meet at the American Spirit, Slip A26 (first one against sea wall), Gang Plank Marina, 600 Water Street, SW (from Waterfront Metro station).

Presented by the National Maritime Heritage Foundation. Note: Space is limited, admission on to the boat is first come, first served.

Sunday, April 23

Anacostia by Bike: The River and the Ridge

Sunday, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Meet at the Harbor Police parking lot at the south end of Water Street, SW.

Reservations required at (202) 518-0524 or waba@waba.org.

(26-mile ride) Participants should expect rough pavement, hills, and traffic, which will be heavy in spots. Helmets are mandatory. Bring water, food, and ID. Locks will be useful, but not necessary, since we will take turns watching bicycles at stops. *Presented by the Washington Area Bicyclist Association.*

Play Ball! Baseball Shuts Out 35 Years of Washington's GLBT History

Saturday, 10 – 11:30 am Meet at Club K, 55 K Street, SE.

Join Rainbow History Project Chairman John Olinger on a farewell tour of one of Washington's premier gay entertainment districts on South Capitol Street.

Presented by the Rainbow History Project.

Washington Waterfront

Saturday, 2 – 4 pm Meet outside the Waterfront Metro station.

Learn how urban renewal brought wholesale change to the waterfront, and how the neighborhood eventually reinvented itself

Presented by Washington Walks.

Boat Tour of Maritime Washington

Boat Tour of Maritime Washington

Sunday, 3 – 5 pm Meet at the American Spirit, Slip A26 (first one against sea wall), Gang Plank Marina, 600 Water Street, SW (Waterfront Metro station). First come, first served.



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**Father's Day,
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